

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-19, 21, 23-29 and 33 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Claims 20 and 22 have been cancelled.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claim 24 has been amended to conform to the language of the specification on page 28, lines 24-28, and now recites that a linked region is covered with a waterproof member. The Examiner should now find sufficient antecedent basis for this feature and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2, 4-19, 21, 23-29 and 33 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Ohnishi. This rejection is moot in view of applicants amendment to claim 1. The following remarks are offered to assist the Examiner in evaluating amended claim 1 and claims depending therefrom.

First, Ohnishi fails to teach the claimed combination of “two or more sandwich structures butt joined in the widthwise direction” and “the sandwich structure having a length of from 10 m to 25 m and a width of from 1.5 m to 3.5 m”. The benefit of these claimed features is described in the original specification at page 14 (first paragraph) and the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 of the specification. In view of these features now recited in amended claim 1, the rejection under 35 USC 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Further, Ohnishi does not teach, disclose, or suggest “fibre reinforced plastic roofing materials”, as claimed. As such, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the cargo container disclosed by Ohnishi to arrive at applicants claimed combination of “two or more sandwich structures butt joined in the widthwise direction” and “the sandwich structure having a length of from 10 m to 25 m and a width of from 1.5 m to 3.5

m”, since there would have been no motivation or suggestion to modify a cargo container to create a roofing material.

Further, the prior art of record cannot establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to applicants claimed invention. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, “all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art”. *In re Royka*, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). Moreover, the suggestion to modify a reference must be found explicitly within the prior art. *In re Lee*, 61 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Since Ohnishi fails to teach, disclose, or suggest modifying his invention to construct an FRP roofing material, claims 1 and claims depending therefrom should be found to be in condition for allowance.

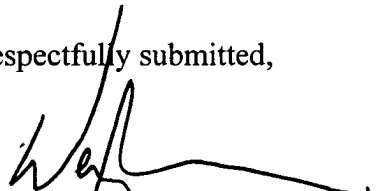
All claims are in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 360842007000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

Please cancel claims 20, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. A fibre reinforced plastic roofing material comprising [a sandwich structure] two or more sandwich structures butt joined in the widthwise direction, the sandwich structure having a length of from 10 m to 25 m and a width of from 1.5 m to 3.5 m and comprises [where] a pair of sheets comprising fibre reinforced plastic is arranged with a gap between them and a rib structure which is integrally molded by a resin transfer molding process to the pair of sheets is interposed, wherein the fibre reinforced plastic includes a reinforcing fibre that is selected from the group consisting of a carbon fibre, a glass fibre and carbon fibre hybrid, and combinations thereof.

21. A fibre reinforced plastic roofing material according to Claim [20] 1 having a shape in the lengthwise direction that is a circular arc.

23. A fibre reinforced plastic roofing material according to Claim [22] 21 where a gap is formed between adjacent fibre reinforced plastic roofing materials in the widthwise direction.

24. A fibre reinforced plastic roofing material according to Claim 23 where [the] a [connection] linked region is covered with a waterproof member.